

impacted the entire Air Force Medical Service. Her performance reflects exceptionally on herself, the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation to COL Joellen de Berg on behalf of a grateful Nation for more than 31 years of dedicated military service.●

#### NAVY AIRMAN JUSTIN TEAGUE

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I would like to take the opportunity to honor U.S. Navy Airman Justin Teague of Benton, KY. Eighteen-year-old Justin Teague shipped out aboard the USS *Enterprise* in October of 2003 as a teenager newly graduated from high school and returned March 28, 2004, as an American soldier.

The USS *Enterprise* was deployed October 1, 2003 and visited the northern Arabian Gulf, Afghanistan, Italy, Spain, as well as a few other countries. Teague's job on the flight deck, where he secured planes that had landed and towed them into position, is vital for the function of the carrier. Justin admits his position was stressful but the hardest thing he had to endure was losing his best friend from home in a car accident while at sea. Despite missing the funeral, he remained positive throughout his journey and hopes to make a career out of the military.

Justin Teague's parents are exceedingly proud of their son, and I am proud to have him as a fellow Kentuckian. In this time of conflict, it is important to remember the young people who risk their lives to ensure our freedom. Men like Justin should be commended for their dedication and hard work in the military. We need to remember to thank our soldiers whenever the opportunity arises.●

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to extend my congratulations to the American Lung Association as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

One of our Nation's foremost health advocacy groups, the American Lung Association was established in 1904 as the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, a cause to which it remains very much devoted. From its early years during which it focused on promoting basic sanitation measures, the ALA has grown into a leader in the fields of health education and biomedical research, contributing over \$11 million in 2003 alone to the study of lung disease.

The American Lung Association has long been at the forefront of efforts to warn the American public of the dangers of smoking. In fact, the ALA predated the Surgeon General by 4 years in establishing a link between tobacco use and chronic lung disease, issuing a public health statement on the risks of tobacco use as early as 1960. Subse-

quent public information campaigns, especially those targeting America's youth, have helped cut smoking rates drastically over the past two decades.

In the hope of addressing a root cause of lung disease, the American Lung Association has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of the air we breathe. This organization played a crucial role in the development and implementation of the 1970 Clean Air Act, and since then has provided a strong voice for improving emissions standards and reducing children's exposure to poor air quality in schools.

Over the years, the American Lung Association has risen time after time to the task of combating new health challenges. Recognizing the growing problem of asthma, the ALA has initiated a number of programs to help local officials, parents, and their children combat and manage this disease. And in 1996, the ALA established their Asthma Clinical Research Center network, a program with an annual budget of \$3.5 million, consisting of 19 university and hospital centers and a coordinating center at the Johns Hopkins University.

I commend the ALA for its outstanding achievements over the past century, and I offer my best wishes for a successful future.●

#### OREGON VETERAN HERO

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I rise to honor an Oregon veteran who went above and beyond the call of duty in service to his country. On February 19, 1941, 16-year-old Mike Ryan left high school and voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army to serve in World War II.

Private Ryan underwent basic training at Fort Mills on Corregidor in Manila Bay. Japanese bombing attacks on the island intensified and ultimately led to the fall of Corregidor. U.S. forces surrendered on May 6, 1942. Pvt. Mike Ryan and other troops in the southern part of the Philippines became Japanese prisoners of war.

Ryan and hundreds of other prisoners were taken to Manila, were paraded through the streets and taken to prison, and transported to a prison camp in Cabanatuan, Philippines.

For the next 3 years, Mike Ryan suffered immensely, enduring hunger, fatigue, and sickness in a Japanese forced labor camp. The conditions were dismal; food and clothing were scarce and the heat was intense. After spending time in a holding area, which was nothing more than a cow pasture with no sanitary facilities, Ryan was sent out on work details and later transferred to prison.

Thirty-seven percent of the prisoners did not survive. Mike says he never gave up hope, saying he always knew he would come back someday. On September 13, 1945, Ryan and his fellow prisoners were released from captivity. Mike Ryan had spent a total of 3 years, 4 months, and 6 days as a prisoner of war.

After spending a short time in a military hospital in Denver, CO, Ryan was honorably discharged from the service on June 20, 1946.

On March 30, 1948, he married and moved to Oregon. Mike worked at a plywood mill in Lebanon for more than 40 years until it shut down in 1985. Ryan served as the department commander of American Ex-prisoners of War. Now retired, Ryan enjoys spending his time with his wife of 56 years and his family. He has two sons, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Mike Ryan made many sacrifices by entering the military at such a young age. He never had the opportunity to finish high school and receive his diploma. Last session, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed S. 374 allowing World War II veterans who left school to serve in the war to receive their high school diploma. Ryan is hoping he will graduate this year with the Lebanon, OR class of 2004.

Now 79 years old, Ryan looks back on his life and gratitude, thankful for the opportunity to serve his country.

For his selfless service to others, and to the United States in time of war, I salute Mike Ryan as an Oregon veteran hero.●

#### NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO ENTER INTO A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—PM 74

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-210; the "Trade Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intent to enter into a free trade agreement (FTA) with the Government of the Dominican Republic.

This agreement will create new opportunities for America's workers, farmers, businesses, and consumers by eliminating barriers to trade with the Dominican Republic, the largest economy in the Caribbean Basin. At the same time, it will help bring to the Dominican Republic expanded economic freedom and opportunity, and it will provide an opportunity for regional stability, democracy, and economic development through closer ties of commerce, investment, and friendship.

Consistent with the Trade Act, I am sending this notification at least 90 days in advance of entering into an agreement with the Dominican Republic. My administration looks forward to working with the Congress in developing appropriate legislation to approve and implement this free trade agreement.

GEORGE W. BUSH  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 24, 2004.